1 and 4 MHz when the preset is turned three quarters cw. Do you recognise this effect or did I make a mistake somewhere?

Dick Flanderijn, Holland (by email)

Although the project is now almost seven years old, the Compact Amp has made it to Evergreen status, hence we include this letter in this month's MailBox. Looking at the impressive PCB sales volumes achieved by this project, the problem can only be said to have been reported sporadically. A suggested cure is to fit a 100-pF cap between the base of T16 and ground. This will however affect the amplifier's sonic response to some extent.

Tension rising! Dear Jan, can I ask two questions about the power supply with the Valve Final Amp from April 2003, please?

The required alternating voltage should be 340 V (I_{max} = 0.7 A). I have had a matching transformer made which supplies 365 Vac under no-load conditions and 340 Vac when loaded with 0.7 A. Is 365 Vac too much of a good thing?

Second, you state that the direct voltage after rectification is 440 Vdc. My calculations tell me that $340 \times \sqrt{2} \approx 480$ Vdc.

The two above factors cause a high tension of about 510 V in my circuit. Is that a problem?

Patrick Görlach (by email)

The designer of the amplifier, Bob Stuurman, replies: Mr. Görlach's transformer is probably beyond reproach. As a safety precaution I would advise loading in the HT PSU with two parallel connected 230-V, 40-watt bulbs. This load will draw about 200 mA which is about the same as the amplifier under no signal conditions. Replacing the transformer should only be considered if the HT is far off the 440-V mark with the lamps connected.

Those Elektor drawings

Dear Editor, which drawing or CAD program do you use to make your schematics and PCBs? I'm curious because your drawing style appears to have been identical since the early 1990s when there were no drawing programs I know of.

Serdar Ulukonakci (by email)

Well Serdar this question is asked at least once a week hence we print a reply here. We started drawing schematics on PCs as far back as 1985 using OrCAD and PCB artwork using Ultiboard. Today we employ versions of McCad (www.mccad.com) and Ultiboard (www.ultiboard.com), both heavily customised and extended with our own libraries for circuit symbols and shapes.

CORRECTIONS & UPDATES

FMS Flight Simulator Encoder

January 2004, p. 22-26, 030066-1

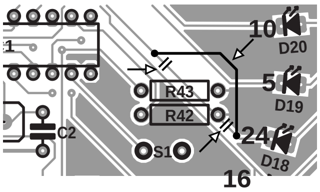
In the parts list, the CTS model number for mini joysticks P1 and P2 belongs to the 100-kΩ version. The circuit diagram however shows 10-kΩ joysticks (model no. CTS 25A103A60TB). The 10-kΩ and 100-kΩ versions function equally well in the circuit.

LED Roulette

January 2004, p. 52-55, 030168-1

The PCB has a short-circuit between the anode of D18 and the +5 V rail.

To lift the short-circuit, two tracks have to be cut and a wire link fitted, as shown in the illustration.



Seconds and Minutes Clocks from DCF77

July/August 2003, p. 40, 024005-1

The RC time defined for IC2 needs to be increased by a factor of 10. This requires changing P1 to 1 MΩ and R7 to 330 kΩ.

Stepper Motors Uncovered (2)

December 2003, p. 54-63, 020127-2

On the printed circuit board overlay, the symbols for FETs T1-T16 have been printed the wrong way around. The FETs devices should be mounted the other way around.

Lambda Probe Readout for Carburettor Tuning

July/August 2003, p. 36, 034052-1

In the circuit diagram, the anodes of D1-D10 should be shown as connected to +12 V.

MailBox Terms

- Publication of reader's correspondence is at the discretion of the Editor.
- Viewpoints expressed by correspondents are not necessarily those of the Editor or Publisher.
- Correspondence may be translated or edited for length, clarity and style.
- When replying to Mailbox correspondence, please quote Issue number.
- Please send your MailBox correspondence to: editor@elektor-electronics.co.uk or Elektor Electronics, The Editor, P.O. Box 190, Tunbridge Wells TN5 7WY, England.